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# PEQUOT TRAILS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY IN THE SPRING, SUMMER, FALL AND WINTER  
BY THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

Volume III

Winter, 1951

Number IV

## Screen Tour Lecturers Scheduled For Buell Hall



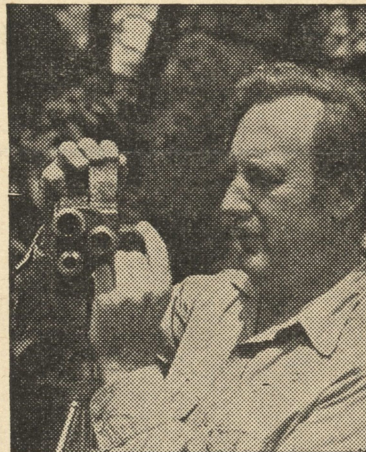
**LUCIE PALMER**  
"Underwater Kingdom"  
Wednesday, December 5

It was a lucky thing that Lucie Palmer was born in Missouri, for when she is told about something amazing she just has to be shown. When she heard that another world inhabited by strange creatures lay undersea, this Missouri Miss got into a diving suit to see for herself. And then, to convince her friends (also from Missouri!) she took along a special camera for underwater motion pictures.

In addition, having had previous training as an artist, Lucie Palmer worked out a method of making oil paintings while under the sea. Her paintings have now been shown nationally, and the American Museum of Natural History in New York has presented a special exhibition of her work.

A member of the National Society of Women Geographers, she has served as Scientific Assistant on many expeditions; yet she prefers to talk of fish as friends and individuals.

Since Lucie Palmer and her husband, Vincent, began these unusual pursuits more than a decade ago, the submerged valleys and hills of the undersea world have become places for her to explore and portray in paintings and in color motion pictures. The color films she presents to Audubon Screen Tour audiences are eye-opening and exciting.



**G. HARRISON ORIAN**  
"By Erie's Changing Shores"  
Friday, January 25

Since his boyhood in Marion, Ohio, G. Harrison Orians, now of Toledo, has pursued and discovered adventure in the world of nature. An interesting time he has had of it, too! He has penetrated into primitive areas up the Lochsa and Selway Rivers and in the Uintah mountains of Idaho. He has traveled in 46 states, Ontario and British Columbia in Canada. He has hiked through Vermont's Green Mountains and North Carolina's Smokies, as well as through northern England and Scotland, studying the wildlife and natural phenomena of those regions.

His occupations have included: ranger-naturalist at Yosemite National Park; faculty of the University of Illinois and the University of Idaho. During World War II he taught pre-flight courses for the Army Air Corps. He is presently at the University of Toledo.

Photography, both still and motion picture, have been hobbies which Dr. Orians cultivated until he has become an outstanding expert. Even before he went to college, as an undergraduate at North Central College, in Illinois, and as a graduate student at the University of Illinois, where he received his M.A. and Ph. D degrees, he worked industriously at nature photography.



**ALLAN CRUICKSHANK**  
"Below the Big Bend"  
Tuesday, February 12

Allan D. Cruickshank has flown, climbed, crawled and ridden into almost every corner of North America, observing wildlife in its most remote habitats, as well as bird life thriving amid concentrated urban centers. Armed with movie camera, tripod and blind, Mr. Cruickshank has scaled the precarious cliffs of Bonaventure Island off picturesque Gaspé Peninsula to get intimate studies in a colony of 20,000 gannets, and has crouched by night under a rubbish pile in a deserted attic to get startling photographs of a monkey-faced barn owl. Once attacked by two ospreys fifty feet up in a tree, he and camera crashed earthward—result two cracked ribs. The NEW YORKER once carried a story on his bird call imitations. A group of ornithological students in Central Park excitedly recorded the first rose-breasted grosbeak song of the year—proving on closer investigation to be rather an early Cruickshank. In his lectures his wit and raconteur is ably supplemented by all-color motion pictures, and by his imitations of the birds' own calls and songs.

"Lecturetographer" Cruickshank obtained his formal education in New York City at New York University, where he majored in biology and pub-

See "Cruickshank"—Page 4



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## PEQUOT TRAILS

Published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, by the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., Mystic, Conn.

### Editors

Mrs. Arthur M. Cottrell, Jr. and  
Thomas P. McElroy, Jr.

### A Statement of Purpose:

We want this publication to be of the utmost service to you—to keep you informed concerning activities at the Sanctuary and in your community; to invite your participation in these activities; and to provide you with general articles of education and inspiration regarding conservation subjects. Won't you drop us a line and tell us what you would like to see published? We would appreciate it.

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## Wild Bird Food Mixtures

Many of our members have become interested in the varying degrees of success obtainable with wild bird food mixtures. Some have noted that the sunflower seeds disappear almost immediately and that the remaining grains are practically untouched. Other members object to the large amounts of milo, weed and vegetable seeds that are rarely eaten.

The manner in which the mixture you are feeding will be eaten depends largely on the variety and quantity of birds about your station. For example, we all know that chickadees, nuthatches, purple finches, and evening grosbeaks are very fond of sunflower seeds. If these are the predominant birds about your yard, it is natural that the sunflower seeds should disappear first. If you have a scarcity of the ground-feeding birds such as the juncos, white-throated sparrows, song sparrows, and the like, it is natural that the smaller grains will not be eaten so quickly. If, on the other hand, you have mostly the ground-feeding species, your small grains will disappear first—particularly if you feed it on the ground where they can get at it.

It is virtually impossible to prepare a mixture that can be considered perfect for any two feeding stations. There is bound to be a difference in the variety and quantity of birds thus calling for a variety of grains to be fed. Ideally, from the standpoint of economy, it is much better to feed separate grains such as sunflower seeds, hemp, millet, etc., according to the immediate demand. A sudden influx or absence of a species, such as the evening grosbeak, would call for a change in your daily feeding plans. These are some of the problems involved when compounding a wild bird food mixture. What might be a good mixture for you may be a poor one for your neighbor. However, in view of these facts, for those of you who still prefer the convenience of a mixture, we believe our own new mixture to be the best for the average feeding station in this area.

T. P. McElroy

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## Dwellers of Shore and Sea

By Pauline H. Dederer

Along our Connecticut shoreline, between the limits of high and low tide, a variety of marine animals make their home—sea worms of iridescent coloring with many feathery appendages, others that build tubes of sand from which bunches of bright red tentacles reach up to seize food brought in by the incoming tide, rock barnacles whose tightly closed shells are stimulated to open when the water splashes upon them, bearing countless minute organisms in the "sea soup" which forms their food.

If you once begin to inquire into this "sea beach at ebb tide," equipped with Clarence Hylander's book "Sea and Shore," you will find pleasure in discovering this world beneath the sands, extending out into the sea. The biologist has his own professional interest here, in studying how each kind of animal is constructed and what it needs in order to exist and reproduce its kind. If he is concerned with sea life from the standpoint of its value to man, many important questions present themselves that have to do with shell-fish, fish propagation, and the like.

Probably all animals have enemies, as well as friends, among other species. One enemy of the oyster, for example, is the oyster drill, a tiny snail which, with the sharp-toothed file it carries concealed, can drill neat little round holes in the oyster shell and suck out its juices. Another enemy is the starfish, which with its myriads of delicate tube-feet, can slowly but surely pull the two shells of the oyster apart, and then devour the oyster. Incidentally, the oystermen who used to break the starfish in pieces to destroy them, throwing the parts back into the sea, were only increasing their number for these creatures have remarkable powers of regeneration. An injured starfish with only two arms remaining will often repair itself to normal. These enemies of oysters may in one sense be considered enemies of man also, since they tend to decrease his food supply.

The gifts of the sea to man, however, are amazing. The list of edible products from the mollusks alone is large, including clams, scallops, oysters, and mussels. From the jointed shell-fish or crustacea, we have as assets the highly prized lobster, shrimps, prawns, and crabs. Our Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game is concerned with increasing our food supply from the sea; this involves studying the critical periods of development, and most important, working to guard against the pollution of waters by industrial and other wastes. At the Shell-fish Laboratory in Milford, Dr. Victor Loosanoff is carrying on valuable work on the biology of oysters and other commercial mollusks in Long Island Sound. At the

State Lobster Hatchery in Noank, Capt. Banning has become nationally known for his development of apparatus and methods that are particularly effective. Every year over 200,000 tiny lobsters are released along the Connecticut shore.

It is not surprising that, in order to meet our insatiable demand for Newburgs, salads, and "broiled-live," the baby lobsters need a nursery, for when the egg hatches, the young larva that hatches is a tiny mite only a half inch long, quite different from its parent. It has to shed its delicate shell and grow a new one several times before it reaches a real lobster stage. It is only about two inches long when it is one year old—and many are the hazards of its life before it can grace our table.

You would not recognize a flounder, should you see it when a few days old. For instead of being flat, brownish on one side and light on the other, with both eyes one side of its head, it is a perfectly formed symmetrical fish about one eighth inch long and almost transparent. In our college laboratory, we have seen its heart beating through the transparent body, sending thousands of little blood cells coursing through its vessels. Its big black eyes, staring to the right and left, seem ridiculously large for its body. This little creature, too, undergoes a sea change, but a different one from the lobster. He has no shell to shed, but he gives up active swimming for awhile, lies down on his left side, and his left eye thus finding the view obstructed, moves over to join the other on the right side, there to stay. A strange and interesting adaptation for this animal that flounders on the floor of the sea.

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## Mystic 4-H Club Donates Trees

The Mystic 4-H Club, under the leadership of Rudy Favretti, donated and helped plant 10 flowering dogwood trees on the Sanctuary property. This project was done as part of the conservation program of the 4-H Club.

We are especially grateful to the Club for this particular donation as there is a natural scarcity of flowering dogwoods on our property. These trees will not only help enhance the beauty of our property, but will help provide an additional natural food supply for migrating birds during the fall months.

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## Audubon Wildlife Tours

Members visiting Florida this winter will again have the opportunity to participate in the tropical wildlife tours conducted by the National Audubon Society.

For complete details and reservations write National Audubon Society, 13 McAllister Arcade, Miami, Florida.



## Connecticut Has New Hawk Law

By Adele Erisman

Connecticut has taken an important forward step with its recent amendment to the game laws which gives legal protection to all hawks. (Owls have had adequate protection for some time.) From having been one of the most backward states in hawk protection it has now leapt ahead of most of them with what the Audubon Society calls a "model law."

The law's particular value lies in its recognition of the fact that most people cannot identify the different species so that laws protecting some and not others leads to a general persecution of them all, and, since all hawks have essential roles to play in nature, there is no need to decide which is "good" and which "bad." The present law allows farmers to shoot the birds when caught in the act of taking poultry, a provision that will not account for many hawk deaths since only an occasional bird develops the poultry eating habit and then only when poultry is very easily available, usually when single birds wander away from the flock.

Mrs. Henry Long of Westport deserves great credit for starting the movement that was later supported by all conservation groups in the state and which led to the revision in the law.

We who know the long history of misconception and persecution surrounding the subject cannot expect the law to accomplish very much at first. But it is a new and powerful weapon for education. When we tell people that hawks are not only magnificent birds but that most species are excellent rodent and

insect destroyers we now have the sanctity of law behind our statement.

As for the Cooper's and sharp-shins that prey on small birds, we know that these birds have such a high rate of reproduction that the depredations of hawks are only one of many, far more potent factors operating to keep their numbers down to a point where there is room and food for all.

If the spectacle of predation puzzles and disturbs humane people, as it must, we can do well to remember that natural predators kill for food only and let their prey alone when they don't need it to survive; that good cover prevents excessive predation; that the most abundant, easily obtained species are the ones most often preyed upon; that disease, fire, weather, starvation are far more powerful, effective and brutal forms of population control. In fact most animals are kept down in numbers by creatures who are **smaller** than themselves, parasites, for example.

Perhaps man who is capable of humane feelings, can fit himself into this scheme best by following Albert Schweitzer's philosophy which says in essence, we cannot avoid destroying some forms of life in order to survive ourselves but let us never destroy any kind, animal or vegetable, unless it is necessary and let us weigh that necessity carefully. We don't as a rule. But if we should, then we could say, Thoreau notwithstanding, that man is a humane animal. Anyway we have taken an intelligent and humane step with our new hawk law. Let's give it publicity and support.

## Audubon Convention Held in New York, November 10 - 13

The 47th Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society was held in New York from November 10 to 13. Through the interest and courtesy of our own officers and trustees, it was my good fortune to again represent our Sanctuary at this Convention. I'm sure our Sanctuary always benefits through such close cooperation with other conservation agencies.

The four-day program featured practical and down-to-earth material that could be used by all individuals and organizations in attendance. This information was presented in a series of panel discussions that stressed ways and means of using available materials. For example, during Saturday's panel many delegates told of their experiences of using available educational material for young people. Mrs. Hawes Coleman of Richmond, Virginia, told of her use of Audubon material in conjunction with nature work at the Crippled Children's Hospital in Richmond—a case of bringing the riches of nature to those

who would otherwise be unaware of their existence. Other panel discussions featured effective ways of using available visual educational material, how to promote Audubon Camp enrollments, and methods of building strong Audubon Societies throughout America.

Many interesting films were shown throughout the Convention. Outstanding among these were "Exploring for Flamingoes" and "Saving the Whooping Crane" presented by Robert P. Allen, Research Associate for the National Audubon Society. Delegates also had an opportunity to see "Audubon's America," a new film released by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. C. Russell Mason, Director of the Society, provided the accompanying commentary. Dr. Telford H. Work presented his new color film "From the Arctic to the Tropics" at Monday evening's session held in the Museum of Natural History.

Sunday's program was devoted to an all-day field trip on Long Island. Allan Cruickshank, Carl Buchheister, Alex

Sprunt, Joseph Cadbury, Charles Mohr, and other members of the Audubon Staff served as leaders for the nearly 200 people on the trip. Despite the large group, excellent opportunities were provided to observe many interesting species of land and shore birds. One Oyster Catcher was found dead—the third record of this species for all of Long Island.

The concluding session of the Convention was the Annual Dinner held in the ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel. Here, 500 Audubon members heard the Secretary of the Interior, the Honorable Oscar L. Chapman, tell of the varied interests and pressures involved with the conservation of land and wildlife in America today.

It was a pleasure to meet at the Convention one member of our own Board of Trustees, Belton A. Copp. Mr. Copp attended as much of the Convention as his time would permit. It is hoped that another year more members of our Sanctuary will take the opportunity to attend this most inspirational convention.

T. P. McElroy

## Wildlife Poster Contest

The National Wildlife Federation of Washington, D. C., announces its 15th Annual Conservation Poster Contest.

The purpose of the Contest is to develop a nationwide interest, particularly among young people, in the need for the restoration and conservation of our organic natural resources.

The Contest is open to all students anywhere in the United States from the seventh grade through the last year in high school. The judges will be announced at a later date.

The Contest will be divided into two groups. Group I will cover all contestants from the seventh, eighth and ninth grades. Group II will cover the high school grades through the senior year.

The first prize for Group I is \$100 and for Group II, \$250. The awards will be made in connection with National Wildlife Restoration Week celebrated the first week of Spring. Other prizes ranging from \$50 to \$10 will be presented.

Posters may be submitted in oil, watercolor, black and white and other media, and are to be sent to the National Wildlife Federation, Washington 10, D. C., to be received not later than January 31, 1952.

Students and teachers interested in the contest can obtain complete information from the National Wildlife Federation, 3308 Fourteenth St., N. W., Washington 10, D. C.

Have you paid your membership dues for the year ending June 30, 1951?



## Christmas Gift Suggestions from Our Trading Post

Now's the time to do your Christmas shopping—and this year we hope you will consider the items offered through your own Trading Post here at the Sanctuary. While our list of items is not large at present, we feel that every item offered is one that will be greatly appreciated by anyone interested in the out-of-doors. May we suggest that you take this opportunity to fill your own needs as well as those of your friends.

**WILD BIRD FEED**—Available at the Sanctuary. This is our own mixture. It does not contain any milo, weed seeds, or other objectionable fillers. By volume it contains 25% sunflower seed and 25% hemp. The remaining 50% is a mixture of smaller grains preferred by birds. Every grain edible.

**WILD BIRD NOTE PAPER**—Each box includes 20 correspondence cards and 20 envelopes. The cards are beautifully illustrated by Francis Lee Jaques showing wild birds in natural settings. Once you see these cards, we are sure they will become your favorite.

**WILD FLOWER AND BUTTERFLY NOTE PAPER**—20 correspondence cards and 20 envelopes. These cards are delightfully illustrated by Roger Tory Peterson depicting wildflowers, butterflies, and moths in an array of delicate colors. Sure to be a favorite.

**WRITING PORTFOLIO**—15 large correspondence sheets and 15 envelopes. The folder and the correspondence sheets contain wild bird illustrations by Francis Lee Jaques. A delightful paper for that longer letter.

**HANBOOK OF ATTRACTING BIRDS**—A book that will be treasured by anyone interested in birds. Written by our own curator, Thomas P. McElroy, Jr. All copies personally autographed.

**BLUEBIRD OR TREE SWALLOW BOX**—These boxes are specially de-

signed for bluebirds or tree swallows. They are made of durable western cedar and rust-proof hardware. They are easily opened for cleaning or inspection. Will last for many years.

**CHICKADEE DINER**—A hanging log-type of feeder containing 12 cups filled with a suet and seed mixture. Cups can be replaced at home or obtained ready filled from the Sanctuary at 50c per dozen.

**GLASS WINDOW FEEDER**—This window feeder is both attractive and practical. It has all-glass sides and can be filled from within doors. A removable scratch board makes it easy to keep clean. It is easily attached to any depth window sill without the need of additional blocking. Permits close observation of feeding birds.

**GLASS WEATHERVANE FEEDER**—An attractive addition to any lawn or garden. Swings with the wind and keeps food and birds protected from inclement weather. Three sides glass. Comes complete with metal pole ready for mounting.

### Current Price List

Wild Bird Food Mixture	
per pound .....	.25
Wild Bird Note Paper .....	\$ 1.00
Wild Flower and Butterfly	
Note Paper .....	\$ 1.00
Writing Portfolio .....	\$ 1.00
Handbook for Attracting Birds ...	\$ 2.75
Bluebird or Tree Swallow Box ...	\$ 3.50
Chickadee Diner .....	\$ 1.50
Refills, per doz. ....	.50
Glass Window Feeder .....	\$10.00
Glass Weathervane Feeder	
(Complete with pole) .....	\$20.00

**NOTE:** All items are mailable postpaid except the wild bird food and the two glass feeders which are not mailable. Connecticut residents add 2% sales tax.

## Bird Notes

Worldover Press  
Wilton, Conn.

October 10, 1951

Dear Sirs:

On October 1, at our summer cottage in Clark's Falls, North Stonington, Connecticut, in the early afternoon, my wife and I watched for more than five minutes an American Three-toed Woodpecker, obviously a female, on a tree less than ten feet distant from the window through which we were looking.

During most of this time, the bird was observed with eight-power field glasses, and every characteristic was noted in a leisurely way, and in great detail. The appearance of this species is such that even a fairly inexperienced field observer could hardly be mistaken

in identification, but under such favorable circumstances, we could not, of course, have any doubt.

Devere Allen

Mrs. John M. Groton reports pine grosbeaks on Elm Street in Westerly.

George R. Holzinger of North Stonington called on November 2 to say that he had a flock of PINE GROSBEAKS feeding in his yard.

Mrs. John B. Findlay of Stonington also called on November 2 reporting a flock of about 20 EVENING GROSBEAKS at her feeding station that morning.

Mr. Brown, Superintendent of Wilcox Park in Westerly, also reported EVENING GROSBEAKS early in November. The LITTLE GREEN HERON that became so tame in the Park has finally migrated.

## Cruickshank

(Continued from Page One)

lic speaking. He has served as president of the Linnaean Society of New York, and is also full member of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Before becoming associated with the National Audubon Society, Mr. Cruickshank did nature camp work; was on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History; and lectured widely on bird and other wildlife subjects, on lecture platform and in radio. He is now an official lecturer of the National Audubon Society, as well as bird instructor at its nature camp in Maine. His photographs have been included in U. S. CAMERA YEARBOOK as among the best of the year and have appeared in NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, NATURE MAGAZINE, AUDUBON MAGAZINE, NATURAL HISTORY and LIFE, as well as in leading newspapers the country over. Feature stories on him have appeared in AMERICAN MAGAZINE and the magazine section of the NEW YORK TIMES. He has written a book called "Birds Around New York City" which was highly praised by scientists. His new book "Wings in the Wilderness" has been a popular success.

Mr. Cruickshank's association with the National Audubon Society was interrupted during World War II. After training as a news and combat photographer, he spent two years overseas in the news section of the Army Pictorial Service in London. In January, 1946, Mr. Cruickshank returned to the staff of the National Audubon Society to carry on his brilliant work as instructor, photographer and lecturer.

## Mrs. Lee Lectures

The thrills, color, and glamor of falcon hunting with the Sheik of Kuwaite highlighted the illustrated lecture given by Mrs. Helen Joy Lee on Monday evening, November 19, at the Marine Museum in Mystic. Mrs. Lee, the traveling "Grandma," showed many colorful pictures and told a fascinating story of this remote and little known section of our world. Mrs. Lee visited Kuwaite while on her recent globe circling adventures.

Kuwaite is a small sheikdom on the Persian Gulf next to Iraq. Mrs. Lee told how, in this land of falcon hunting, a sheik's wealth is determined by the number of gayly dressed assistants that accompany him in the field. On the specific hunt Mrs. Lee talked about, 65 people were included—5 actual hunters and the rest assistants with varying duties.

The Sanctuary wishes to express its gratitude to Mrs. Lee for this fine program, and to all those who helped make it a success.